HANDWRITING USER INTERFACE FOR PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANTS AND THE LIKE

ABSTRACT

A handheld device 100 such as a personal digital assistant (PDA) or the like, a graphical handwriting user interface (HUI), a method of interfacing handwritten text and a program product therefor. A lower portion of a touch-enabled display is designated as a handwriting input area 104. Recognized text is displayed at the top of the screen. As each handwritten word is entered 142 into the designated screen input area, a check is made (144) to determine when the handwritten entry is complete, typically with a timer, by pressing a space key or by a special pen gesture. When the handwritten entry is complete, the handwriting recognition engine matches (146) the handwritten input against words in the system dictionary as supplemented by the user dictionary and a confidence score is attached (148) to the top scoring word. If the confidence level is high enough (154) then, it is inserted in the input buffer as primary word choice for that handwritten word and the user may decide (156) whether the primary word is correct. The highest scoring words are selected (150) from the dictionaries and displayed in a secondary or pop-up word list 120 which may be located at the bottom of the interface screen 102, just above the handwriting input area 104. If the confidence level is not high enough, then the user is prompted (158) with an indication that the recognition result is less reliable, e.g., with a question mark string ("???") which is inserted in the input buffer. If the correct word is included in the pop-up list 120, then, the user can select (162) the correct word and that selected

word is inserted (164) into the text stream, either to replace the previously provided primary word or as an original word replacing the indication string.